

# THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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## THE NEW POTATO GRADES

War speeds up things in unforeseen ways. Who should have thought that to make war, we must adopt standard grades for potatoes? But the new potato grades have been put into effect by the Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration, and this winter potato growers are learning to follow them. It is a wartime task, and like everything else new, causes a good deal of grumbling. Grumbling will not abolish these grades, however, for Uncle Sam is behind them, and if potato growers cheerfully work together through the present adjustment period, they will reap great benefits.

In explanation of the grades, and by way of showing what they will mean after everybody has become accustomed to them, the United States Food Administration has issued the following statement of the "Economics and Benefits of Grading Potatoes."

Subject: Economics And Benefits Of Grading Potatoes.

It is an easy matter to criticize unthinkingly. Because of this, any movement at all out of the ordinary seems subject to criticism, principally by people who are not constructionists themselves, and who, perhaps, don't know anything about the movement but are simply "agin it." This proposition of grading potatoes is one which the United States Department of Agriculture, as well as the various State Departments, has long been desirous of seeing in effect. The Bureau of Markets has made most careful and extensive investigations to determine what grades would best meet the needs of the country as a whole and what effect the adoption of such grades would have. It has had in mind first (as the Agricultural Department always has) the interest of the grower, but has not failed to consider carefully the interest of the consumer also.

There can't be any logical objection to grading and there is no question that the sections which best grade any product are the ones which receive the highest prices for it. The western box apple industry could never have reached its present stage without strict grading. The California fruit industry is another one made famous and profitable by grading. Getting down to potatoes, Florida has graded her shipments of this crop better than any state in the Union, and during the time when those shipments are moving, she receives the highest price, by far, of any section.

There is another phase of the situation. The consumption of potatoes in our country is less than that of any other potato-growing nation. This is due, principally, to the fact that the potatoes grown in the United States are not equal in quality to those produced in other countries. In Europe various varieties sell at a premium because of their fine table qualities, and some varieties are raised only for manufacturing purposes. In this country little thought is given to anything except yield,—altogether too little even to that,—and we may say comparatively none to quality. Buyers are, to a great extent, to blame for this condition. Forced by competition, which is excessively extravagant, they pay the same price for Brown's potatoes as for Jones' or Smith's, even though Brown's may be of much better quality. The result is that the grower has no incentive to reduce quality.

Under the grading which the government is now insisting upon, provision is made for taking potatoes from the growers down to a size as small as 1 1/4 inches in diameter. The criticism is baseless, then, that this will leave in the farmer's hands a large amount of potatoes that are valuable for food and that he might market if grading were not adopted.

The U. S. No. 1 grade provides that the minimum size for round varieties shall be 1 1/4 inches, and long varieties 1 1/2 inches in diameter; U. S. No. 2 grades fixed a minimum size of 1 1/4 inches in, in diameter. It was not intended that these grades should be for show purposes; they merely separate the useable tubers into two groups, each of which has a definite place in the Nation's markets;—a good, sound, commercial proposition.

The grades are fully described in the Bureau of Markets Document No. 7, a copy of which may be had by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, or to the United States Food Administration. The United States Food Administration did not deem it advisable to make this grading compulsory at first, because it realized that dealers and growers would have to become familiar with the grades; but hearty co-operation has been accorded the movement by both growers and shippers in all sections. The few who, for one reason or other, are willing to co-operate, and especially the few who are trying to cause dissatisfaction, are following a practice which is, to say the least, unfair. Their shipment of ungraded potatoes is wasteful and not in accord with either the Food Act or the wishes of the United States Food Administration. Up to this time the Food Administration has been very lenient in this matter but it now feels that the best interest of the country as a whole demands an enforcement of grading.

In Wisconsin, some years ago, the Wisconsin Growers Association, one of the best and strongest in the country, passed a resolution, condemning the practice of shippers in marketing potatoes ungraded. The leaders of this association are men who are actually farmers, whose knowledge is gained through experience and not through theory. Its president, Mr. J. W. Hicks, has been one of the strongest supporters of this proposition, which has also the unanimous backing of all of the members of the association.

This Association, by the way, has done much to improve the quality of potatoes in Wisconsin by the selective seed method, and its members have found such selection useful and profitable. Now is the time for growers to give this matter of quality more than passing thought. They have not only an opportunity of benefiting the potato industry in the country as a whole, but their own interest will be greatly advanced if they will lend their support to this method of raising larger and better crops.

The United States Department of Agriculture will be glad to recommend and assist, so far as lies within its power, any grower who is desirous of securing better seed than he has planted in the past, and farmers should more generally avail themselves of the advantages offered them without cost, by this department and the various State departments. These departments are not in a position to furnish seed free of cost, but will locate and assist in every consistent manner such growers as feel sufficiently interested to write them. Growers can also be assured of sound and interesting but impartial advice if they will address the experiment stations or agricultural colleges in their states, the presidents or secretaries of the leading potato growers' associations, or large potato shippers of established reputations. Many such shippers have indicated their willingness to locate stocks of good seed potatoes for growers and to supply them at practically no advance over ordinary market value. They recognize that good seed in the field means added crops of better quality for them to handle in the fall; and are willing to work only for such indirect profits. Get in touch with such men and do it now.

Don't talk about not planting potatoes this coming season because prices have not been as high as a year ago. Remember that if the market prices pass too far beyond the value as food, consumption must necessarily be curtailed. Remember too that generally speaking, there is no crop which can be grown in a logical potato section to better advantage and profit than the potato and that the profits on his crop can be greatly increased by an improvement in quality.

If Canada with less than nine million inhabitants has been able to put 250,000 soldiers on the battle front, what may not be expected of the United States with its great wealth and more than a hundred million inhabitants? This pointed question was asked by a Socialist member of the Prussian Diet the other day, but other members found it good policy to persist in the view that the United States is and will remain important in a military way. Apparently they assume that the German masses are thick-headed enough to swallow anything.

## FUN AT THE HUN'S EXPENSE

Mr. Hugh Gibson, formerly first secretary of legation in Belgium, tells some highly amusing stories at the expense of the Germans and to the credit of the natives of that afflicted country. He relates, for example, that the Germans decreed that the Belgians should wear a rosette with their national colors, and then even that they should not wear an ivy leaf emblematic of constancy, resenting both as an affront to the imperial German government; but when, on the anniversary of the invasion of Belgium, thousands of citizens appeared on the streets with a "scrap of paper" in their buttonholes, the German authorities were mystified and did not interfere, being too stupid and self-satisfied to recognize this derisive celebration of a great political crime. Mr. Gibson also tells of the anxious concern of one of his Belgian servants for the safety of a pig when the predatory Germans arrived, and of the resourcefulness of this servant's wife. With her husband's assistance the woman killed the pig, put it in her bed, covered it with a sheet, lighted candles at the head and foot, and when the spoilers arrived cried out: "You can't come in. Death has visited this house!" The Germans forced their way in, had their will of the rest of the house, but only walked through the death chamber and saluted the pig!

Another story relates to a clever trick played on the German authorities. Passports not being properly honored, our embassy protested and was put off with unblinking denial. Then Mr. Gibson proposed that a German officer come with him in citizen's clothes and see what happened to him this being reluctantly agreed to. When the disguised German officer attempted to cross a chalked line with an American passport he was rudely and even roughly treated, and when he indignantly announced who he was and what he was there for he was set upon and severely beaten as a supposed liar. When seen the next day, badly bruised and battered, he said: "Gibson, did you know who was out big fellow who kicked me so hard from behind? Dot was re professor of ethics from de university of Munich." Mr. Gibson might well have added that this is what is the matter with Germany: all its "professors of ethics" have become outlaws.

## A DEAD SOLDIER'S STORY

Written in Harper's Magazine of Sir Olivers Dodge's alleged communication with his dead soldier son Raymond, William B. Howells, the venerable "dean of American literature," expresses surprise that the British scientist should not investigate the writings of Emmanuel Swedenborg rather than seek unsatisfactory information through a modern "medium" of the table rapping variety. "What is a little odd," says Mr. Howells, "is that Sir Oliver Lodge takes no note of the great, full and most explicit affirmations of spiritual life by a most eminent scientific man who observed it a century and a half ago. There is nothing reported from Raymond Lodge which may not be paralleled and amplified a thousand fold from the Memorabilia of Swedenborg. His one work, 'Heaven and Hell,' is a storehouse of experiences and observations which, whether we allow them to be genuine or not, are still of an extent and variety which far transcend all subsequent communications. The things told by Raymond of the housing and clothing of the people of the spiritual world, of their condition and state where each chooses his destiny according to his life here, are the commonplaces of Swedenborg's revelation, and might all have been derived from his books wherein every fact (of the future life) is so plainly set down that curiosity is almost sat down."

Prince Hohenlohe, son of a former German Chancellor, is in exile because he dared to say that his country went to war for conquest and is doomed to failure. According to Swiss report, this enlightened man is convinced that "every American soldier sailing for Europe goes in the firm belief that he is to fight for the threatened freedom and justice of the world," and he deplores the "fixed idea" in Germany that America entered the war "only for selfish and material interests." The banishment of so clear-sighted a man and so true a friend of his country is an impressive symptom of the insanity that rules in the Kaiser's dominions.

The President's sympathetic expressions do not appear to have been very warmly received in Russia. One Petrograd newspaper actually refers to them as a "confession" indicating that the American money power "found it necessary not only to reckon with the Bolshevik authority but to make a courtesy to it." Shameless ingratitude could go no further. Though this particular sheet may not be widely representative, it would appear that the Bolsheviks are not ready to listen to Samuel Gompers, let alone the President. After his experience as a neglected Socialist in our back streets, Trotsky must have gone to Russia convinced that we care only to make money and enslave the proletariat.

## Items of Community Interest

Mrs. Clarence Scherf is visiting friends in Scottsbluffs this week.

Miss Cutosky will entertain the Lone Scouts at a valentine party Friday evening.

The H. H. Club will meet Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Ruth Hawse.

The G. I. A. ladies are meeting at the Red Cross rooms in the court house this afternoon.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abege Wednesday night a boy. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson Wednesday afternoon a boy.

Mrs. Claud Brown of San Diego, California arrived this week to attend the funeral of her sister Mrs. Canfield, at Hemingford.

Mrs. Sam Tillet entertained a number of ladies at bridge Tuesday afternoon. The prize was won by Mrs. Percy Cogswell.

Mrs. B. C. Soth left on the Monday morning train for Central City, Nebr., having received a telegram stating that her mother Mrs. David Lear, was seriously ill.

Wednesday the A. M. Club entertained the H. H. Club at the home of Glen Yoder. The evening was spent in contests and games, the boys serving an excellent lunch to the girls late in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Kenner of Hemingford are visiting friends in Alliance this week. Mrs. Kenner came down the first of the week and Dick came down on Wednesday. They are getting along very nicely on their farm near Girard.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Niemann had for dinner guests Sunday the following: Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Highland, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Smith, Mrs. Holloway, Mr. Gettis of Lincoln and Misses Loughey, Morris and Everett.

Charley Schafer, former Alliance

business man who recently enlisted in the aviation corps of the army is now making flights. He has applied for a commission. George Nation, another Alliance boy, has applied for a commission in the aviation corps.

The G. I. A. ladies will give a home cooking sale at Duncan's store Saturday afternoon, February 16th.

Judge Tash received a letter this week from a nephew located at the aviation camp 12 miles from Norfolk Va. The young man is very enthusiastic over the branch of the service that he is in. He states that the Y. M. C. A. comes the nearest to taking the place of a mother than any thing else.

Mrs. J. A. Wolverton and son returned last Monday from their visit at Camp Cody, Deming Mexico. Mr. Wolverton's train went off and left him at Albuquerque, N. M., after he had stepped off at the depot to look at the town. This caused him to miss the review of the troops held Saturday at the camp. The camp was named after "Buffalo Bill" and Mr. Wolverton says, "a model city, the streets being perfectly laid out." The boys are quite satisfied at camp and are all anxious to cross over the water. Mr. Wolverton while there witnessed a military funeral and states that the services held over the dead soldier were very impressive. The climate in New Mexico according to Mr. Wolverton was uncomfortable warm.

Special Bargains in Laces, Embroideries and Handkerchiefs at the White Goods Sales all next week at the National 5-10-25c. store

On Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Yates entertained a number of their friends at their residence, 920 Cheyenne. A "Donkey Party" was held and prizes were won by Mrs. G. Dorr, Miss Alta Phillips and Mr. O. B. Atkins. Music and dancing were the main features of the evening. At a late hour a buffet supper was served. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. G. Dorr, the Misses Temmy Woods, Alta Phillips, Mable Sward, Lena Atz and Elta Douglas, the Messrs F. A. Lape, C. E. Sward W. J. Barrow, O. B. Atkins, D. A. Gibson, J. Kyte, and the hosts.

Kiro high grade coffee—three pound can for 98c at the G. M. Burns store.

Making Corks Like New. After corks have been used a while they sometimes become so compressed that the contents of the bottle leak out. This may be remedied by putting the corks in boiling water and leaving them there until the water cools. They will then be as good as new and fit just as tightly.

See Us, And See Best



**DRAKE & DRAKE**  
OPTOMETRISTS

Glasses Accurately Fitted  
We Can Duplicate Any Broken Lens.

313 1/2 Box Butte Ave Phone 121

## Shark Fishing Arabian Industry.

Shark fishing is quite an industry among the Arab fishermen of Aden. The best grounds are between Aden and Shukra, an Arabian port about eleven miles east of Aden, writes Consul Southard from Aden, Arabia. There are also good shark fishing grounds at Makalla, another Arabian port some distance beyond Shukra. Shark fishermen also have good luck at most places along the British Somaliland coast. The usual fishing vessel is the typical Arab sailing dhow. Both nets and hooks are used in fishing. The nets are very strongly woven, the best ones coming from the Persian Gulf, and are from 100 to 150 feet in length and about 25 feet wide. Sharks from 3 to 7 feet in length are usually caught in the nets, while hooks are used for the capture of larger sizes. Fishing with hooks is often done from small boats and requires considerable courage, as a large fish will sometimes overturn the boat and throw the occupants into the water, where they have more than an even chance of being attacked by other sharks.

## One Foot Walks Faster Than Other.

You may think it is silly to ask which foot walks faster, but it isn't. If you will take a pavement that is clear and walk briskly in the center, you will find, before you have gone 50 yards, that you have veered to one side. You must not make an effort to keep in the center, but if you will think of something, and endeavor to walk naturally, you will not be able to keep in a direct line. If you lose yourself on an expanse of black moorland and walk on, you will describe a complete circle. The explanation lies in the propensity of one foot to walk faster than the other, or take a longer stride than the other, causing you to walk to one side. To make assurance doubly sure, try placing two sticks about eight feet apart, then stand off about sixty feet, blindfold yourself, and endeavor to walk between them.

# Our Government Says—

"Food must be conserved. Don't waste it"  
We can show you how to save BUTTER by using merged butter made in the  
"UNIVERSAL" BUTTER MERGER.

2 lbs OF MERGED BUTTER

FROM

1 lb of Butter and 1 Pt. of Milk

Directions: For making two pounds of merged butter from one pound of butter and one pint of milk. Any equal quantity in weight of creamery butter and milk can be merged.

- 1st. Pour the milk into the glass jar of the merger, then add one teaspoonful of fine salt (more or less to suit the taste)
- 2nd. Cut the butter into thin slices and put in jar with the milk.
- 3rd. Set the jar with its contents into a pan of as hot water as you can bear your hand in with comfort, and allow to remain until the butter softens, but not long enough to melt. This can best be determined by feeling the butter with a spoon.
- 4th. As soon as the butter is soft enough remove jar from water, screw on top, and turn handle fast until all butter and milk is thoroughly mixed. Now remove the top and empty the butter into a bowl, (do not work it) then set in a cool place to harden.

You will now have two pounds of merged butter; sweet, wholesome and nutritious, and preferred by many to creamery butter.

Should the yellow color of creamery butter be desired, add to the milk before churning ten to fifteen drops of Dandelion Vegetable Butter Coloring Extract; for sale by most grocery and drug stores.

One Customer Says—  
"You Can't tell the difference in taste from any other butter."

**Newberry's**

Alliance,

Nebraska